



**Date:** February 6, 2018

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Terry Bellamy, Director of Transportation  
**Subject:** Grant Agreement for Woodcroft Parkway Extension (TIP # U-5823)

### **Executive Summary**

The City of Durham has been awarded federal Surface Transportation Program funds through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to design and construct an extension of Woodcroft Parkway from NC 751 (Hope Valley Road) to SR 1116 (Garrett Road). The STIP includes an estimate of \$791,250.00 for design, environmental documentation, right of way acquisition, and utility relocation. The federal funding amount is \$633,000.00 which requires a minimum 20 percent local match of \$158,250.00 from the City. A future Supplemental Agreement will be prepared for the project's construction phase and any additional funding that may be needed for actual design and right of way costs. The total federal funding currently approved in the STIP is \$2,070,870.00, and the total local funding approved in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) is \$2,441,900.00. To utilize these funds, the City Council must approve a Municipal Agreement, a CIP Ordinance Amendment, and a resolution accepting the funds and authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

### **Recommendation**

The Department of Transportation recommends that the City Council

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Woodcroft Parkway Extension (TIP U-5823) Municipal Agreement with the NC Department of Transportation for design, environmental documentation and right of way activities for the project;
2. Adopt a grant resolution to accept federal grant funding in the amount of \$633,000.00 from the NCDOT; and
3. Adopt an ordinance amending the General Capital Improvement Project Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2017-18, as amended, the same being Ordinance #15131, for the purpose of receiving additional funds in the amount of \$633,000.00 for the first phase of the Woodcroft Parkway Extension Project (LC 404) where the existing CIP match funding of \$158,250.00 is currently appropriated.

### **Background**

An extension of Woodcroft Parkway from Hope Valley Road to Garrett Road has been in the DCHC MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan since at least 2004. During the development of the FY 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Woodcroft Extension project scored very well in NCDOT's prioritization process and was funded in the adopted FY 2016-2025 STIP. This project is geared towards alleviating traffic congestion and delays, especially during peak travel periods, at the nearby intersections to the south; Garrett Road and Hope Valley

Road, and Hope Valley Road and W. NC 54 intersections. Furthermore, it will provide a direct connection to C. E. Jordan High School from the surrounding residential neighborhoods, making it a suitable multi-modal corridor to encourage alternative commuting options like biking, walking and transit. It is on this premise that this project was prioritized and approved for funding through the FY 2016-2025 TIP.

#### **Issues and Analysis:**

Project Area: The project application identified a direct connection between Hope Valley Road and Garrett Road as an appropriate needed measure to lessen traffic congestion in the nearby road intersections as well as an opportunity for providing sidewalk and bike route connections in the area. The selection of the actual road extension alignment will occur during the planning and design process which will include a purpose and need analysis as well as input from the nearby residential neighborhoods, schools, business community, and strategic partner City departments.

Project Timeline: If the municipal agreement is approved, the planning and design phase of the project is anticipated to begin in the second quarter of 2018. The Transportation Department will be responsible for project design through selection of the preferred alternative, and the Public Works Department will be responsible for final design. Right of Way activities are planned to commence in early 2020 with an anticipated construction completion by the end of 2025. The next step after approval of the municipal agreement is to prepare a Request for Letters of Interest for prospective design consultants for the project. Federal bidding and contracting regulations will apply to this project, and a design contract will be brought back to the City Council for approval.

Eligible Expenses: Project activities eligible for funding reimbursement from NCDOT include design, environmental documentation, right of way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction. It is expected that some project activities may require a higher local match than the minimum 20 percent due to federal and state requirements. NCDOT must approve all contract awards and design specifications as they are responsible for administering federal funding in NC. This first agreement does not include the expected federal funding for construction. The City will request a Supplemental Agreement to add the federal funding for construction and any additional funding that may be needed for design and right-of-way at a future date. The total anticipated local funding needed for the project is \$2,441,900.00.

#### **Alternatives**

The Durham City Council could decide to:

- Authorize the City Manager to execute the Municipal Agreement, grant resolution, and CIP ordinance amendment for the Woodcroft Parkway Extension; or,
- Send the item back to staff for further review; or,
- Not authorize the execution of the Woodcroft Parkway Extension Municipal Agreement, grant resolution, and CIP ordinance amendment.

#### **Financial Impacts**

Upon completion of the project's first phase, NC Department of Transportation shall reimburse 80 percent of the eligible activity expenses incurred by the City up to a maximum of \$633,000.00 of the total cost. The cost to the City is expected to be a 20 percent match of the total cost (\$158,250.00). If the actual total cost of the project's first phase exceeds the programmed

amounts, a supplemental agreement shall be prepared for additional federal funds. The administration of the project will require a commitment of staff resources.

**UBE Summary**

The municipal agreements with NCDOT require that their procedures be followed for these projects. The Department of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance did not review this item for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – NCDOT Grant Agreement for Project U-5823

Attachment B – Grant Resolution

Attachment C – CIP Ordinance Amendment

Attachment D – Project Site Context Graphic